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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00095 161108Z

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9100
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, BU
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: A) SOFIA 2168; B) SOFIA 2303; C) SOFIA 2137

1. IF DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION, WE INTEND ASK BULGARIANS TO OFFER CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTS IN FIVE FIELDS:
A. MODERN TEACHING METHODS.
B. AMERICAN STUDIES, ESPECIALLY RELATION OF LITERATURE TO SOCIET AND CULTURE IN GENERAL.
C. URBAN PLANNING.
D. DRAMATIC ARTS (ACTOR OR DIRECTOR) FOR OBSERVATION, NOT PERFORMANCES.
E. U.S. FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WITH EMPHASIS UPON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS/IMPORTS.

2. GRANTS WOULD BE FOR 30 DAYS WITH STANDARD BENEFITS. WE WOULD SEEK--BUT NOT REQUIRE--BULGARIAN PARTICIPATION TO EXTENT OF PROVIDING TWO-WAY TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN SOFIA AND PARIS, FRANKFURT OR LONDON. TO PROVIDE SOME FLEXIBILITY, WE WOULD ASK FOR TWO NAMES PER CATEGORY, FROM WHOM WE WOULD SELECT ONE PRIMARY AND ONE ALTERNATE. CANDIDATES WOULD SPEAK ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN OR RUSSIAN.

3. BASED UPON DISCUSSIONS WITH CU/EE DIRECTOR RICHMOND HERE IN NOVEMBER (REFTEL A, PARA 4A), WE WOULD PLAN FOR AT LEAST THREE GRANTEES TO TRAVEL BEFORE END OF CURRENT FISCAL
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00095 161108Z

YEAR.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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4. IN ADDITION WE PROPOSE IV GRANT TO MRS. EVGENIA KAMOVA, WHO NOW HOLDS POSITION WITH COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE SIMILAR TO THAT SHE HELD WITH NOW-DISBANDED COMMITTEE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES (DESK OFFICER FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES). PURPOSE OF GRANT WOULD BE TO ACQUAINT HER WITH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, WHICH WOULD FACILITATE EXPANSION OF U.S.-BULGARIAN EXCHANGES IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND AFTER CONCLUSION OF ENVISIONED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT. RICHMOND MET WITH KAMOVA (REFTEL A, PARA 3). IF DEPT CONCURS, WE WILL SUBMIT FORMAL NOMINATION FOR HER.

5. WE ALSO WILL CONSIDER INVITING ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SEMINAR TO BE HELD THIS APRIL. THE IV GRANT WOULD BE FOR "INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY".

6. IT APPEARS BULGARIANS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETING INSTITUTE. NOMINATION FOR MULTI-REGIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION PROJECT (REFTEL A, PARA 4B) REMAINS UNCERTAIN. WE AWAIT RESPONSE TO REFTEL (B) AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE DECIDING ON USE IVP FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM.

7. THUS, INCLUDING STOITCHKOV (REFTEL C), WE ANTICIPATE BY END OF CURRENT FISCAL YEAR SUBMITTING UP TO TEN NOMINATIONS FOR FULL IVP GRANTS, FOR WHICH AT LEAST FOUR GRANTEES WOULD TRAVEL BEFORE END OF CFY.
HERZ

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